

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

CONFIDENTIAL PTQ2529

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ACTION AF-00

INFO LOG-00 NP-00 ACQ-00 CIAE-00 DINT-00 DODE-00 SRPP-00  
DS-00 EUR-00 FBIE-00 VC-00 H-01 TEDE-00 INR-00  
L-00 VCE-00 AC-01 NSAE-00 OMB-01 OPIC-01 PA-00  
PM-00 PRS-00 ACE-00 P-00 SP-00 IRM-00 SSO-00  
TRSE-00 USIE-00 R-00 PMB-00 DSCC-00 DRL-02 G-00  
NFAT-00 SAS-00 /006W

-----8A8E0D 271459Z /38

FM AMEMBASSY HARARE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7212  
INFO NSC WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 HARARE 005461

SIPDIS

NSC FOR SENIOR AFRICA DIRECTOR GAYLE SMITH  
LONDON FOR CHARLES GURNEY  
PARIS FOR BISA WILLIAMS  
PASS USTR FOR ROSA WHITAKER

EO 12958 DECL: 09/21/10  
TAGS PGOV, PINS, ZI, MDC, ZANU-PF

SUBJECT: ZANU-PF REPORTEDLY INTERESTED IN DEAL WITH MDC  
THAT INVOLVES MUGABE'S DEPARTURE

REF: HARARE 5346 CONFIDENTIAL  
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CLASSIFIED BY DCM EARL IRVING. REASONS: 1.5 (B) AND (D).

SUMMARY

1. (C) ACCORDING TO A SENIOR MDC ADVISOR, THE OPPOSITION PARTY HAS RECEIVED ADDITIONAL FEELERS FROM ZANU-PF ABOUT MAKING A DEAL THAT INVOLVES ZANU-PF SEES WRITING ON WALL, WANTS A DEAL

2. (C) IN A SEPTEMBER 26 CALL ON DCM AND POLOFF, XXXXXXXXXXXX SAID THE BUSINESS INTERESTS OF SENIOR ZANU-PF MEMBERS ARE BEING BADLY DAMAGED BY PAGE 03 HARARE 05461 01 OF 02 271458Z THAT THE MDC IS GAINING STRENGTH IN THE RURAL AREAS -- TWO RECENT RALLIES BY MDC PRESIDENT MORGAN TSVANGI SIPDIS INTERESTS FOR THE MDC TO DO ALL IT CAN TO SECURE A GRACEFUL EXIT STRATEGY THAT PRESERVES SOMEWHAT OF A POSITIVE LEGACY FOR MUGABE. OTHER

ENCOURAGING MUGABE TO STEP DOWN

3. (C) THE BOARD OF LEVER BROTHERS INFORMED THE MDC, XXXXXXXXXXXX REPORTED, THAT KOFI ANNAN, IN THE RECENT MEETING IN NEW YORK DURING THE MILI PAGE 04 HARARE 05461 01 OF 02 271458Z ENOUGH, BUT HE CLAIMED THAT XXXXXXXXXXXX WORKED FOR MI6 AND COULD BE A CHANNEL FOR THE BRITISH TO PROVIDE

4. (C) THE MDC, ACCORDING TO XXXXXXXXXXXX, BELIEVED THAT THE BEST WAY TO PROCEED WAS FOR AN INDEPENDENT BODY -- PREFERABLY MEMBERS OF THE BUSI PRIVATE SECTOR AS MIDDLEMAN

5. (C) SHORTLY AFTER OUR DISCUSSION WITH XXXXXXXXXXXX, XXXXXXXXXXXX CALLED ON THE DCM AND POLOFF. XXXXXXXXXXXX NOTED THAT THE ZIMBABWEAN ECONC CONFIDENTIAL

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INFO LOG-00 NP-00 ACQ-00 CIAE-00 DINT-00 DODE-00 SRPP-00 DS-00 EUR-00 FBIE-00 VC-00 H-01 TEDE-00 INR-00 L-00 VCE-00 AC-01 NSAE-00 OMB-01 OPIC  
C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 HARARE 005461  
SIPDIS  
XXXXXXXXXXXX

E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/21/10 TAGS: PGOV PINS ZI MDC ZANU PF  
POLITICAL PARTIES. THE CHALLENGE, XXXXXXXXXXXX SAID, IS CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 HARARE 05461 02 OF 02 271459Z CONVINCING ZANU-PF AND THE MDC, WHO MISTRUST EACH OTHER IMMENSELY, TO SIT IN A ROOM TOGETHER AND AGREE ON

6. (C) XXXXXXXXXXXX SAID HE HAS HEARD HINTS THAT PRESIDENT MUGABE IS WILLING TO STEP DOWN UNDER THE RIGHT CONDITIONS. THAT WOULD BE REMARKABLE

7. (C) THERE IS A GROWING REALIZATION IN ZANU-PF, XXXXXXXXXXXX INSISTED, THAT THE CONTINUED DETERIORATION OF THE ECONOMY WILL INEVITABLY HAND

PAGE 03 HARARE 05461 02 OF 02 271459Z HONEST BROKER WAS NEEDED TO CONVINCE ZANU-PF TO PARTICIPATE AND TO UNDERWRITE THE COSTS OF WHATEVER AGREE

8. (C) WOULDN'T PRESIDENT MUGABE HAVE TO BE IN THE LOOP ON SUCH AN INITIATIVE, THE DCM ASKED? ABSOLUTELY, XXXXXXXXXXXX REPLIED. THEIR EFFORT W

COMMENT

9. (C) MANY MEMBERS OF ZANU-PF ARE INCREASINGLY CONVINCED THAT PRESIDENT MUGABE IS A SERIOUS LIABILITY. A MEMBER OF ZANU-PF'S POLITBURO RECENT PAGE 04 HARARE 05461 02 OF 02 271459Z THEY ARE UNDERSTANDABLY SEARCHING FOR A WAY TO PROTECT THEMSELVES FROM PROSECUTION AND THEIR ECONOMIC ASS

10. (C) WE ARE INTRIGUED BY XXXXXXXXXXXX'S EFFORT. HIS THINKING ABOUT HOW TO BROKER SOME SORT OF AGREEMENT IS CLEARLY IN THE INCIPIENT STAGES

MCDONALD

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